

# Times-Dispatch

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## FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1913.

### THE LONG SILENCE IS BROKEN.

If Diogenes were now going about in the daytime with his lantern, looking for a man, he would be glad to meet Senator T. H. Dickinson, of Prince Edward County, who is the only fee officer in Virginia who so far has reported to the Senate the amount of fees received by him in the calendar year 1912. The other officials compensated wholly or partly by fees have evidently construed the West resolution to mean that the report is not to be made until the end of 1913, but Mr. Dickinson is a scrupulously strict constructionist of the old school, who evidently does not approve the constitutional theory that a punitive statute is to be construed against the State.

The sheriff of Prince Edward can scarcely be called overpaid. He gets a flat salary of \$812, and his fees amount to about \$100 the year, of which he collects about \$75. His total income is \$887, out of which he pays his two deputies when he needs them. It is not at such cases as his that the West resolution is directed. The fee officers who are aimed at in that resolve are those who are getting the white meat of the chicken—certainly enormously overpaid county and city sergeants. They are the fellows who ring up receipts on their private cash registers, the figures of which no other mortal so far has been permitted to see. The democracy of the fee system is not over-compensated, but the aristocracy of fee officialdom is.

The movement for fee publicity in Virginia is simply to establish some system by which public officers can be given a fair and known compensation. The people ought to know what wage they pay their public servants. It is possible that in reforming the fee system there will be fixed a maximum fee limit, so that fee officers who are poorly paid need not divulge their compensation unless it reaches an unreasonable amount. The fee officers who are receiving rightful compensation have nothing to fear, but the fee officers who are over-compensated have.

### A PLEA FOR THE CONSERVATION OF OUR PERMISSUM RESOURCES.

By parcel post Postmaster Carpenter, of Madison, has sent to a Pennsylvania epicure "a two-pound package of delicious Madison County, Virginia, home-grown permissums." The Madison Episcopus tells him that the person to whom the parcel was sent "has never seen or tested this popular fruit, and it is but natural to suppose that the recipient will be surprised to learn that the trees bearing this fruit are of wild spontaneous growth, and he will also be amazed to learn that countless thousands of bushels of it are now going to waste in Madison County alone."

Nor more will he be amazed than are we that the good folk of Madison are so prodigal with one of the richest food resources. In Prince Edward County, where the "wild spontaneous" fruit is known as the diaspyros virginiana (probably due to the influence of Hampton-Sidney College), not a permissum is allowed to fall to the ground by the frugal and economical inhabitants of that historic locality. There the possibilities of the permissum are in large measure realized, and it is used as fruit for breakfast, as delicacies stew—only the pinhead stew is better—for dinner, and for a sort of Sally-Lunn bread for supper. Its medicinal use is also known in Prince Edward, and it is freely prescribed in one of our most common maladies. In some of the less civilized localities, the opomum is permitted to devour the permissum crop before the indolent inhabitants can get to it, but in the Old Dominion the colored brother eats the opomum before it can get its greedy paws upon the "wild spontaneous growth."

Let the counties that permit their permissums to go to waste make haste to conserve the permissum crop. Let them ponder upon the possibilities of the permissum. Let them imitate the wisdom of progressive permissum people. In that little State in which Cole Blaise is Governor plenipotentiary and extraordinary, the South Carolina produce simon beer, which is believed to be nonintoxicating, yet just as exhilarating. In Monroe County, Arkansas, the houses are painted with a permanent slippy made of the fruit. The "extremely satiating taste" of the permissum when green makes it most acceptable to people who desire all the pleasures of eating without the ill after effects. In Texas, when a youth wishes to use a phrase in conversation with the girl he adores that will convey his ecstasy at her sweetness and beauty he exclaims "O you permissum!"

In a time of the high cost of living like this we should turn to the permissum for succor. If we mistake not, it was Ex-Private W. H. Turpin, of King William County, who described in a communication to us the acceptability of the permissum as sustenance to the war-worn and hungry Confederate GIs. And yet comes the Madison episcopus, "countless thousands of bushels of it are now going to waste." Perish the thought! Instead of dropping malodorous upon the middleman, let us pick up our permissums and realize their potentiality. In the South we

have but two certain crops, permissums and pickaninies, and only the first is edible. Let the next Southern Commercial Congress at its peril omit to put a plank in its platform declaring for the preservation, the conservation and the utilization of our permissum resources.

### LETTING RICHMOND CONTRACTS

The Administrative Board is attacking here and there isolated parts of one of Richmond's grave municipal problems, the getting of public work done promptly and efficiently. The idea of putting an extra force of men to work by electric light to finish the long-drawn-out paving of Broad Street is somewhat in the nature of an anti-climax. If the people and the business men have endured patiently this long, why worry about a month or two more? Perhaps the weather will remain fair enough to keep the street passable until the car company and the contractor finish the terrible task of putting down seven blocks of new construction. The weather is really the most important factor in determining when Richmond work is completed. It will always excuse delay, for in the case of the Mayo Bridge the floods and bad weather were ample reason for securing an extension of time, while in the case of Broad Street fair weather enables the contractor to go it easy, since the street is not as bad as it would be in worse weather. The idea of making a small allowance for weather conditions and then slamming the job through regardless does not seem to appeal to Richmond.

A real constructive step has been taken by the Administrative Board in ordering the insertion of advertisements for bids on the further paving of Broad Street and on the drawing of plans and specifications for the new Free Bridge in technical magazines of national circulation. We trust that is the beginning of a consistent policy of getting the work done by the firm that can do it cheapest and best, whether it be a Richmond concern or not. If the local contractor can meet the conditions set, by all means favor him; if he cannot, give it to the firm that can. The policy of fostering home industries at the expense of the whole city is bad economics and based on a fallacy. This is especially true here, where contractors have not returned the favors granted them by earnest efforts to help the city get its work done.

The real problem, before the board, therefore, is not what to do about contracts already let, but to begin the formulation of precise and clear-cut policies in regard to the future. There are just two principles to be observed: specify in the contracts exactly what is to be done, and second, add a heavy penalty, automatically collected, for every day of failure to complete these specifications after a set date. Add to this a provision that this penalty must be paid, and the time taken on public works will not be the desperate jest it is now.

For the benefit of the contractor we suggest that other cities have found it cheaper to rush work with a big payroll for a few months, and so cut down all overhead charges, than to have a heavy daily charge for a long time while a small force dilly-dallies along.

### PROTECT THE PASSENGER BIRDS.

Dr. Hornaday, ornithologist of eminence, recently voiced a new conception of interstate rights, in a speech supporting the McLean bill, which provides that the Federal government be empowered to protect from the guns of market-men and pot-hunters all wild geese, swans, wild ducks, brant, plover, and other insect-eating and game birds that fly from State to State. He declared that "it is robbery as well as murder for sportsmen of the Southern States to slaughter the robins of the Northern States, where no robins can be killed." If, on the other hand, he continues, the North should murder for food the mockingbirds that come tunelessly from the South, no one would be quicker to denounce the outrage than the offended Southerner.

We are glad that so far as robins are concerned Virginia cleared her skirts by a law against their killing last year. We are ready to do our share in preserving this natural feathered defense against the insect pests that are estimated to cost the nation almost \$40,000,000 a year. We join with the rest of the country in urging upon the House to complete the enactment of this bill. The Senate passed it by a unanimous vote. The constitutionality of the measure is vouchsafed. It would be a potent means of saving the fast-vanishing passenger birds.

### A TASK FOR PRESIDENT TAFT.

During the recent campaign, President Taft constantly told us of the remarkable prosperity which we were enjoying as the result of the economic policy of the Republican party. Within the past few months he has also written several extended messages dealing with our commercial and industrial progress at home and abroad. Despite all these utterances, however, the great body of consumers and wage-earners do not take the President seriously, and seem incapable of understanding that they are living in a period of unprecedented prosperity. Everywhere there is discontent and dissatisfaction because prices are rising more rapidly than salaries and wages. In all branches of the textile industry, where prosperity, stimulated by the protective tariff, has been supposed to be rampant, the operatives have recently been striking for advances in rates of pay. The great body of railroad employees throughout the country are vigorously demanding higher remuneration. The labor unions are also attempting to secure a restriction of immigration. They claim that the protective system, instead of safeguarding wage-earners from the deplorable effects of competition with the pauper labor of Europe, has been attended by an influx of aliens of low standards with whom Americans cannot compete. All classes refuse to take President Taft at his

word and to believe that they are as prosperous as he would have them think.

This darkened condition of the popular understanding, at least from the standpoint of President Taft, should be enlightened. After his retirement from the White House he has announced his intention of taking up his residence in New Haven, which is within easy reach of some of the largest industrial and urban centers of the country. What greater service to the Republican party could President Taft render than to undertake the task of demonstrating to his neighbors in some of New England's cities and towns of New England the remarkable prosperity which they possess? We are led to this thought, however, not through any consideration for the Republican party but because we would be sincerely glad if President Taft, through actual contact with conditions, could be brought to a realization of the effects of a protective tariff and other Republican prosperity measures upon the economic condition of the great body of persons of whom he speaks so extensively, but of whom he evidently knows so little.

### THE FATE OF ADRIANOPOLE.

Adrianople, the storm centre around which the negotiations of the representatives of the allies and Turks at London has so long revolved, on the fate of which the issue of peace or resumption of hostilities, including, probably, the immediate expulsion of the Turks from Europe, has so long hung, and which at last the latter have agreed to cede to the victorious allies, has been a storm centre a lifetime. Time and again it has been a bone of contention—the scene of battle and siege, of heroic defense, and of humiliating capitulation. More than once the scale of empire has turned upon it. Adrianople figured dramatically and repeatedly in history generations before it was captured by the Turks, and became the first capital of the Ottoman power on the European continent. It was at Uskudama, as Adrianople was anciently known, that Constantine the Great overthrew Licinius, and established himself as supreme, and only a few years later it witnessed the annihilation of the hosts of Valens by the Visigoths.

There also Baldwin, the Latin Emperor of Constantinople, met with crushing disaster before the legions of Tsar Kaloyan of Bulgaria.

It is a most interesting illustration of the irony of destiny and of retribution that the wheel of history, in its ever self-repeating revolutions, should now, in its full turn, have paused on the spot where began the rise of Ottoman dominion to its zenith, to mark it as the seal of the doom of descent of Ottoman sway to its nadir.

### WORKERS IN "BLIND ALLEYS."

A recent investigation by the census board of New York City into the condition of 12,000 children from fourteen to eighteen years old who left school to go to work proves that more than half of these boys and girls are working at "blind alley" occupations—those "from which there is no outlet into a skilled trade or occupation." The certain result is that early in maturity most of these workers become "spent" or casual derelicts in the industrial world, if they are not claimed by righteousness.

Similar inquiries elsewhere have yielded similar results. The conditions in Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and all large cities are practically identical. There are millions of boys and girl workers in this country. Child labor laws in some degree protect them, but to secure justice for the young the vital need is for vocational schools in which they can be trained for permanent usefulness. Schools of this description increase vastly the industrial efficiency of the State, and in every State such institutions should be established and maintained.

### UNIFORMS FOR LOBBYISTS.

Compel all lobbyists to wear a uniform of a brown suit, red hat and green tie. That is what a bill just introduced in the Missouri Legislature would do. The Boston Globe moves to amend the bill in the following particulars, to wit, as hereinafter expressly provided:

"Transpose the colors of the hat and neckwear."

"Prescribe a collar with a plate inscribed plainly with the name of the owner."

"Prohibit the wearing of gumshoes or sneakers."

"Require each and every one of them to grant a limit amount of sick leave with pay and to continue on the pay rolls for a limited time when injured in the civil service, whether by their own negligence or otherwise, and to give full pay to all per diem men for legal holidays."

An ordinance along this line will be in keeping with the policy adopted and followed in a large majority of cities. The city clerk, who is the man who depends upon a small daily wage for the support of himself and family, is in desperate circumstances when sickness comes upon him, unless the wages he has been accustomed to draw are continued. The ordinance already in effect in many cities and un-

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The Wilson kinfolks in the Old Dominion are glad to learn that more guest rooms are being added to the White House.

One of the matters to be discussed at the National Corn Exposition is "The Problem of the Poor Cow." Some people have been mean enough to solve the problem by tying the cow on the railroad track and then getting damage from the railroads for a first-class beverage.

Way not Dr. Frederick A. Cook for Secretary of the Navy in the new Cabinet?

## On the Spur of the Moment.

By Roy K. Moulton.

The terror of the criminals is Uncle Jabez Hand. He is the marshal of this town, we'd have you understand. He's built on Sherlock Holmes's style. Has old Sleuth beaten by a mile. Nick Carter had six rainy days was never half so grand.

When any one splits on the walk, the marshal's right on deck. He rounds the evildoers up in record time, by heck. He knows the ways of all the crooks. Enough to write a dozen books. When folks stir about in this town they get it in the neck.

When some one robbed the post-office of ninety cents in stamps. He was the hero of the hour and took in sixteen times the money. They ate our grub for sixty days. The marshal has the village craze. He let the populace take turns alookin' at the scamps.

The clapper of the schoolhouse bell was missin' Tuesday last. The marshal took the mystery and solved it pretty fast. He nailed Bud Smith and Wilbur Doe. Of course, the marshal didn't know. The janitor had sent it on to have a new one cast.

He pinches all the boys and girls for hitchin' onto sleighs. And proves himself a mighty sleuth in six days and ways. The checker game is played no more. In William Tibbitts's grocery store. Since Ezra Hanks and Tibbitts got sent up for thirty days.

When Grandmama Harkins lost a pie she'd set out doors to cool. The marshal got upon the trail and pinched the grammar school. By taking all of them he did. Round up for sure the guilty kid. For real downright detective work he ain't nobody's fool.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.

There was quite a commotion in the Hard Shell meetin'-house last Sunday. Uncle Ezra Harkins leaned up against the altar and said: "He was wearin' his celluloid collar at the time, it bein' Sunday, and Wide-Awake Hanks Company had considerable difficulty in extinguishing the angry element. Several stained glass memorial windows was smashed by people jumpin' through them, and during the excitement, some party or parties answerin' the general description of Hod Peabody got away with the collection plate. Uncle Ezra says he is sorry he disturbed the meetin', but he's glad his hair was singed off, as it will save him the price of a haircut."

It is gettin' purty hard to get something for nothin', and about the only thing you kin get that way is the measles. In sympathy with the advance in pork pig iron has gone up several cents.

"Some people can't understand why they don't get any mail," said William Tibbitts, the gentlemanly and courteous postmaster at Hickeyville, who has been agitating about the change his politics always at the psychological moment and to keep the office from Hayes down to the present time. He has had to stand here and argue for half an hour to convince a man that I haven't got a thing for him. When he takes it out on me, and after he gets through cursing he hands it to the administration."

"Then the same man will come in and get four or five running letters and hand it to me and the administration," said again.

In addition to the chronic kicker, we have the sweet young thing who asks us for lavender scent stamps instead of red ones, claiming that the red ones don't match her stationery. When we convince her that we are all out of lavender stamps she takes a red one and then kicks because the sticker isn't flavored with vanilla instead of crushed raspberry.

## VIEWS OF THE VIRGINIA EDITORS

### A Priceless Bond.

Babes have been called the coupons of Cupid's bonds. A babe arrived in Radford the other day which is both true and untrue. The young lady is being entertained at the home of Mr. Stephen Bond—Radford Record.

The Verdict of the Right. News from Hickeyville tells the effect that reverend begging clemency for the Aliens are pouring into the Governor's office. This is a natural result of the situation due to the law's delays and the delays due to the executive clemency. The field has been well worked and the mass of foolish sentiment has been scattered all over the State. It finds cheap expression in telegrams that cost only a few cents.

All of this combined has nothing to do with the duty of the Governor. The cases were patiently heard in fair trials in a competent court. Competent juries declared under oath the guilt of these men. Alleged additional and newly-discovered evidence did not improve the Court of Appeals. The Governor's duty is to pardon or commute of sentence. If the verdicts of the juries were right the Governor can be right only by allowing the convicted men to go free. If the verdicts were wrong he would be compelled to take some course in mitigation. But the verdicts were not wrong.—Charlottesville Progress.

### Pay for Time Lost.

Richmond's Administrative Board will recommend to Council the adoption of an ordinance giving to the various city departments the right to grant a limit amount of sick leave with pay and to continue on the pay rolls for a limited time when injured in the civil service, whether by their own negligence or otherwise, and to give full pay to all per diem men for legal holidays.

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Way not Dr. Frederick A. Cook for Secretary of the Navy in the new Cabinet?

## THE BIG WASHINGTON SUFFRAGIST PARADE

(Copyright, 1913, by John T. McCutcheon.) Miss Milholland, the "most beautiful girl in the suffrage movement," is to lead the big suffragist parade in Washington on March 8. She will ride a charger and will wear the livery of a herald of medieval times. Several hundred striking women garment workers from New York will march in rage and tatters to depict the injustice of the sweatshop system.



If they are going in for a historical pageant effect, why—



—not have groups showing the status of women in the past, or—



—why not have a group showing the status of many of them at present?

questionably will be in effect in all of them after a while.—Roanoke World.

## THE WORLD AT LARGE

### America Should Profit by Example of

(Excerpts from address of President Taft at the annual conference of the B'nai B'rith in New York Sunday night.)

"The American people should profit by the Jew's example of love of liberty and love of guaranty of rights and equality and by their intensity of spirit."

"The American people will have to be educated over again in lessons of liberty and will have to be taught the real value of the rights we now have and the restraints under which we enjoy them."

"Tolerance does not exist in other countries as in our own, but we must know that tolerance in this country will have its beneficial effects all over the world. The attitude of the American people on that subject cannot but bring about a better condition."

### Fast Talkers in the House.

"Whether it is due to the age or something else, it is a fact that members of the House of Representatives have increased the average speed at which they talk during proceedings of the House approximately 25 per cent," remarked Sam H. Gray, of Pennsylvania, one of the House corps of stenographers. "I do not mean to say that the maximum speed limit has been increased, but fully fifty men in the House now talk at a high rate of speed where one reached the maximum speed in the average speed at which they talked during the late David Wolfe Error as a reporter, there were only two or three members who talked so rapidly that the stenographers had to put in their besticks to keep up with them."

"Former Representative Charles Littlefield, of Maine, had the reputation of being the fastest talker in the House when I went to work there. His average words a minute, when I was on the floor, was about 150. Until Mr. Littlefield entered Congress the record was held by Henry U. Johnson, of Indiana, and the latter was the only man I am told by my associates, who talked so fast that a double check was necessary; that is, two stenographers taking him at the same time."

"In the present House there are several men who talk almost as rapidly as Mr. Johnson talked, notably Mr. Martin of South Dakota and Mr. Murray of Massachusetts. Others exceed Mr. Littlefield. The average speed, however, while much greater than it used to be, is not more, I should say, than 150 words a minute. Some members talk as slowly as 80 words a minute."

"The best stenographer the House ever knew, perhaps, was the late Andrew Devine. Nobody ever knew how fast Devine could write shorthand. That he could reach a speed of 300 words a minute is beyond question. He is the only man I ever heard of who could get far behind a speaker and catch up without the least difficulty. He was known to follow a man 150 to 200 words behind and catch up with him. But Devine was a marvel."—Washington Post.

### Our One Living Hero.

The living hero has a hard time, especially in a republic. The dead hero is the only one safe from the fluctuations of public opinion. The heroes produced by the Spanish-American War illustrate this truth. Hardly a man who took a prominent part in it on the American side escaped calumny. A popular vote to-day would probably put Captain

## Voice of the People

### Dr. Ryland Knight's Good Wishes.

To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir—The confusion incident to my getting delayed my writing to express my grateful appreciation of your gracious editorial of December 31 with regard to my leaving Richmond. I greatly enjoyed my life and work in Richmond, and I found much interest in the people with whom I came in contact there. If I could help a little I was more than repaid. With every good wish for the splendid old city and for the Times-Dispatch, I am, fully yours, RYLAND KNIGHT, Clarksville, Tenn., January 21.

## QUERIES & ANSWERS

### Burial Place of Washington.

Please tell me where the body of George Washington is buried. JAMES JONES.

In the family tomb at Mount Vernon.

### Real Estate Dealer.

Is it necessary for a dealer in real estate to have any sort of legal permit? C. GREEN.

He must pay his license tax and get his license.

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### THE HANDED PLACE

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